

Mr. Ralph Miller
Pike Energy Solutions, LLC
10101 Claude Freeman Dr.
Suite 100-W
Charlotte, North Carolina 28262
7/12/2011

RE: Cultural Resources Background Research and Windshield Reconnaissance for the VCS2-St. George 230kV Line #1 and the VCS2-Lake Murray 230kV Line #2.

Dear Mr. Miller,

In February 2011, Brockington and Associates, Inc. contracted with Pike Energy Solutions, LLC to conduct a cultural resources literature review and an architectural windshield reconnaissance for the proposed VCS2-St. George 230kV Line #1 (St. George #1) and the VCS2-Lake Murray 230kV Line #2 (Lake Murray #2) located in Fairfield, Richland, Lexington and Newberry Counties, South Carolina. The research results outlined in this letter report provide information for planning purposes only and are not meant to serve as compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act or other state and/or federal legislation.

Once the transmission line structure locations are identified, a viewshed analysis of the associated structures will help in the development of a targeted visual Area of Potential Effect for any above-ground structures. A Section 106-compliant Phase I survey will then allow for full determinations of eligibility for those structures that lay within the lines' viewshed.

Literature Review, Architecture

We conducted a literature review for the St. George #1-Lake Murray #2 Study Area to determine if any properties or sites had been recorded within the proposed project area. This research included a review of all previously recorded architectural resources located within the study area boundary on file at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) in Columbia. The data, digitized on computer, include:

1. All aboveground resources recorded after 1989, including their NRHP eligibility;
2. All cultural resources studies conducted since 1989;
3. All archaeological sites, structures, and districts that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

We also conducted a search of the SCDAH Finding Aid. The Finding Aid is an electronic document that lists all cultural resources projects that have occurred in a given county. We reviewed the document for studies that took place before 1990. There are a few pre-1990 aboveground resources surveys in the study area counties. However, the data contained in these early studies were not collected using current survey methods and standards. Furthermore, the surveys are not comprehensive or reliable because the condition of many of the buildings surveyed likely has changed and many buildings not surveyed at that time because of age may now meet the minimum 50-year age requirement for survey. Structures recorded during these surveys were rarely assessed for NRHP eligibility and followed by a formal Determination of

Eligibility (DOE) by the SCDAH. We did not attempt to include in the GIS database every structure surveyed prior to 1990. Structures and districts that were recorded prior to 1990 and that are listed on the NRHP would be included in our data.

The St. George #1-Lake Murray #2 Study Area encompasses approximately 58.9 square miles within four South Carolina counties (Richland, Fairfield, Newberry, and Lexington). According to Archsite, there are 128 previously recorded above-ground resources within the study area. SCDAH classifies these resources as follows: 1 NRHP listed property, 9 properties determined NRHP-eligible by SCDAH, 2 properties determined potentially eligible and 116 properties that have been determined not eligible. Where possible, eligible, or potentially eligible NRHP properties should be avoided and visual effects evaluated during project planning.

Literature Review, Archaeology

We conducted our archaeological site search using Archsite, South Carolina's online cultural resources GIS database. The Archsite database provides information on cultural resources surveys as well as previously recorded archaeological sites. For the St. George #1-Lake Murray #2 Study Area, 73 previously recorded archaeological sites fall within the study area boundary (Figure 1). Of the 73 previously recorded sites, 3 were determined potentially eligible for the NRHP, 57 (including one cemetery) were determined not eligible or probably not eligible for the NRHP, and 13 (including one cemetery) have undetermined designations, have not been formally assessed, or were recommended for further testing. Sites determined potentially eligible for the NRHP should be avoided for physical impacts during project planning whenever possible. The non-eligible sites need no further consideration. Cemeteries are afforded protection from direct disturbances by local ordinances and South Carolina state law.

Windshield Reconnaissance

In April and May of 2011, the project historian conducted a windshield reconnaissance of the St. George #1-Lake Murray #2 Study Area. As outlined in National Register Bulletin #24, a windshield reconnaissance-level survey is useful in ascertaining "a general picture of the distribution of different types and styles [of architectural resources], and of the character of different neighborhoods" (Parker 1985:35-36). Windshield surveys are also useful for making *preliminary* assessments of eligibility based on the architectural integrity of properties, but not in ascertaining the historical associations a property might possess.

The St. George #1-Lake Murray #2 Study Area begins at the VC Summer Nuclear Plant in Fairfield County and terminates at Lake Murray in Lexington County. The line also traverses through portions of Newberry, Richland and Lexington Counties on either side of I-26. Much of the study area was traditionally used for agriculture, which continues in some of the more remote areas. Much of the building stock in the area consists of mid-twentieth century middle income housing and late-twentieth century modular homes, with a heavy concentration of suburban development servicing the west side of the City of Columbia. There is also substantial development along the Lake Murray shoreline. The Study Area is characterized by a variety of architectural types and styles and there is no one particular architectural theme or style.

The St. George #1-Lake Murray #2 reconnaissance consisted of a vehicular inspection of architectural resources visible from all publicly accessible roads within the study area. It is important to note that topographic and aerial maps often indicate properties located along private

roads as well as abandoned and existing field roads. If a previously recorded property is found to be inaccessible, we reference current aerials to determine whether a building is extant. The purpose of our windshield reconnaissance was to:

1. Evaluate all previously recorded architectural resources (if any);
2. Locate architectural resources not previously recorded and that appear to meet the minimum fifty year age requirement for the NRHP, and
3. Identify potentially eligible NRHP properties.

The Literature Review identified a total of 128 previously recorded above-ground structures in the 58.9 square-mile Study Area. These structures are indicated by both point data and polygons in the associated GIS data set. The previously recorded structures include 1 NRHP listed property, 9 properties that have been determined eligible by SCDAH, 2 properties (including 1 cemetery) that are potentially eligible for the NRHP, and 116 properties (including 4 cemeteries) that have been determined not eligible by SCDAH. Of the 116 properties determined not to be eligible, our windshield survey considers 19 of the properties as potentially eligible resources. These evaluations are noted in the GIS data set. Whenever possible, it is recommended that NRHP listed, NRHP-eligible or potentially eligible properties should be avoided and visual effects evaluated during project planning.

During the windshield reconnaissance, we also recorded an additional 20 resources (including one cemetery and a Town of Peak historic district) that appear to retain sufficient architectural integrity to be considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. We observed numerous other properties that appear to be 50 years old (thus, meeting the minimal standard for NRHP eligibility consideration) distributed throughout the study area; these are properties that would be recorded by an architectural historian during a standard Section 106 survey. Due to significant alterations or modifications, these properties appear to have lost their architectural integrity and may not meet the criteria of eligibility for listing on the NRHP under Criterion C. However, these properties might possess historical significance which could only be determined through archival research such as would be required for a Section 106 cultural resources survey. We did not attempt to plot each of these resources in our GIS dataset. Where possible, those properties considered potentially eligible for the NRHP should be avoided and visual effects considered during project planning. For the VCS St. George #1 – Lake Murray #2 project, we recommend that once pole locations and any associated transmission line structures are located, that a viewshed analysis be conducted. This would provide a targeted visual Area of Potential Effect for a Phase 1 architectural survey for full Section 106 compliance. A Phase 1 architectural survey would afford a more intensive structures analysis and the development of sufficient information to solicit eligibility determinations from SCDAH.

The Comprehensive Resource Map (Figure 1) provided below details the findings from both the literature review and windshield reconnaissance. The projection used to develop the map and shapefiles was NAD 1927 UTM Zone 17.

Should you have any questions regarding the GIS data or require any additional information on a particular property, please do not hesitate to send me an email (patriciastallings@brockington.org) or call (678) 638-4126.

With Best Regards,

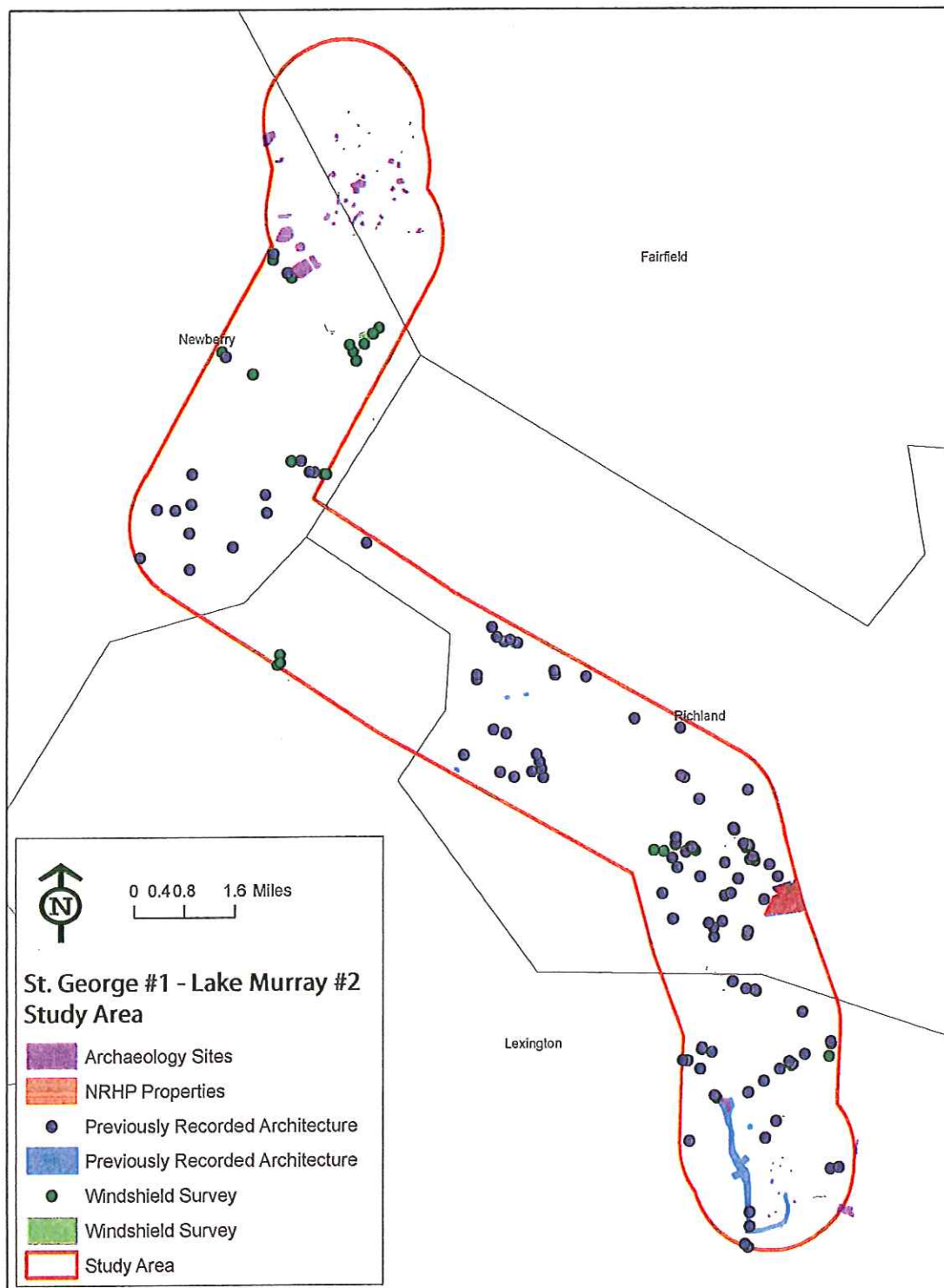


F. Patricia Stallings
Senior Historian

References

Parker, Patricia L.

1985 *Guidelines for Local Surveys: A Basis for Preservation Planning*. National Register
Bulletin #24. National Park Service, Washington, D.C.



VCS St. George #1 – Lake Murray #2 Study Area